

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

*A* ~~The invention provides a~~ A method and system for auto-detection of communication mismatch, such as in a networking environment. A device using a communication protocol uses a technique for protocol augmentation to determine sufficient information about whether there is a protocol parameter mismatch, and to determine how to adjust its protocol parameters so that the parameter mismatch is obviated. In a preferred embodiment, the protocol includes an Ethernet protocol, and the mismatch includes information about whether devices at ends of a communication link are using half-duplex or full-duplex settings. A first device using the Ethernet generates messages that force a set of second devices using the same Ethernet to generate responsive messages to send to the first device; the first device determines, by examining features of the responsive messages from the second devices, what protocol settings the second devices are using. ~~With this information, the first device can adjust its protocol parameter settings to match the second device.~~